

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The Office Action dated December 13, 2005 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled. Claims 9-14 were previously withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 6-8 and 15 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,412,389 to *Kruger* (hereinafter "*Kruger*"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As required in Chapter 2131 of the M.P.E.P., in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, "the reference must teach every element of the claim." The Applicant respectfully submits that *Kruger* does not teach every element recited in claims 1, 7, and 8. Thus, *Kruger* cannot anticipate these claims. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite a laundry dryer control method which comprises, among other features, "calculating a plurality of temperature variation rates" and "determining whether there is a substantial increase in the temperature variation rate as a function of the plurality of temperature variation rates." As correctly pointed out in the Office Action, *Kruger* "anticipate[s] the claimed invention except for the claimed substantial temperature increase as a function of variation(s) thereof." See e.g., the Office Action at page 3. The Applicant points out that the claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled claims 4 and 5. In maintaining the rejection of the claims 4 and 5, the Office Action cites U.S. Patent No. 5,682,684 to *Wentzlaff et al.* (hereinafter "*Wentzlaff*"). More particularly, the Office Action references column 8, lines 1-59 of *Wentzlaff*. The Applicants submit that *Wentzlaff* does not disclose the elements of canceled claims 4 and 5. At most, *Wentzlaff* discloses measuring a number of different temperatures. See e.g., col. 8, ll. 29-

46. However, nowhere does *Wentzlaff* disclose calculating a temperature variation. As *Wentzlaff* does not disclose calculating a temperature variation rate, *Wentzlaff* cannot disclose measuring a plurality of temperature variation rates nor determining if there is an increase in a temperature variation rate as a function of the plurality of temperature variation rates.

The Office Action also rejected claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kruger* in view of *Wentzlaff*. The Applicants have canceled claims 4 and 5, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Regarding claims 2, 3, and 6, the Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As required in Chapter 2143.03 of the M.P.E.P., in order to “establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention, all the limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.” The Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Kruger* nor *Wentzlaff*, either singularly or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every element recited in claims 2-6. As previously discussed, neither reference discloses all the features recited in claim 1, the base claim from which claims 2-6 depend. Similarly, neither reference suggests all the features of claim 1, namely, a laundry dryer control method which comprises, among other features, “calculating a plurality of temperature variation rates” and “determining whether there is a substantial increase in the temperature variation rate as a function of the plurality of temperature variation rates.” As such, the Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, and 6 are patentable over the cited references and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In addition, the Office Action rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kruger* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,792,956 to *Hylton* (hereinafter “*Hylton*”). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As previously discussed with reference to claim 1, the base claim from which claim 15 depends, *Kruger* fails to disclose or suggest each and every element recited therein. *Hylton*

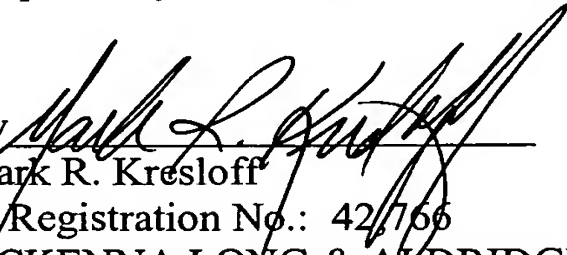
fails to address the previously noted shortcomings of *Kruger*. Therefore, the Applicants submit that claim 15 is allowable over the cited references and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner believes a conversation with the Applicant's representative would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: March 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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